

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-05 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 NASA-02 /045 W

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FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 744

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MILI, PP

SUBJ: GEODETIC SURVEY OFFICERS MAKE SOLOMON ISLAND NEWSPAPER

1. THE AUGUST 1 ISSUE OF "THE SOLOMON ISLANDS DRUM" CARRIED THE FOLLOWING STORY WITH PICTURE OF LT. GRAPPO UNDER HEADLINE OF "HENDERSON JOINS THE SPACE AGE."

2. BEGIN QUOTE: A RECEIVING STATION NOT MUCH BIGGER THAN A TELEPHONE BOX AT THE END OF THE HENDERSON AIRFIELD SEEMS AN UNLIKELY PLACE TO RECEIVE SATELLITE SIGNALS.

"BUT THAT HAS BEEN THE JOB OF GEODETIC SURVEY OFFICERS, LIEUTENANT GARY GRAPPO AND SERGEANT BARRY ALSTON, OF THE U.S. NATIONAL AERONAUTIC AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION OR NASA, SINCE EARLY LAST MONTH.

"LT. GRAPPO AND SERGEANT ALSTON ARE IN HONIARA FOR SIX MONTHS TO RECEIVE AND RECORD INFORMATION FROM AN EXPERIMENTAL SATELLITE LAUNCHED BY A JOINT AMERICAN-SOVIET MISSION IN APRIL.

"THE 'BOX' AT HENDERSON IS PART OF A WORLD-WIDE NETWORK OF SIGNAL STATIONS WHICH ARE AIDING THE STELLITE TO MAP THE EARTH AND OCEAN SURFACE.

"THE TWO MEN ARE COLLECTING DATA ABOUT THE SOLOMONS THROUGH
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THE SATELLITE EVERY 140 MINUTES DAILY.

"ALREADY, THEY HAVE SENT FOUR CODED COMPUTER TAPES OF
INFORMATION TO NASA HEADQUARTERS TO WASHINGTON. END QUOTE.

2. CONGEN CONTINUES TO SERVE AS LIAISON WITH GRAPPO'S HEAD-
QUARTERS IN WYOMING.
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